

The News and Herald.

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ESTABLISHED 1844.

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don't put it on." That's a safe way to secure foot comfort as well as peace of mind. There's variety enough in our assortment of shoes for men, women and for children to avoid selection of

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FAIRFIELD HISTORY.

Representatives in Congress and in States Conventions—County Officers—Other Interesting Items. From Edgington's History.

To the present and succeeding generations of Fairfield County I respectfully dedicate this little volume as a duty I owe to them in perpetuating the memories of a few of their ancestors, and as a token of my love to my native county.

The Author.

INTRODUCTION.

"Old people tell of what they have seen and done, children of what they are doing, and fools of what they intend to do."

As I am perhaps now the only one now alive, who knew some of the first settlers of Western Fairfield and a few of their immediate descendants, I may be pardoned for undertaking the arduous task of preserving for posterity the meagre knowledge I have retained of them from memory, besides what I can glean from "Mills Statistics of South Carolina," and "Woodward's Reminiscences." I am well aware of the fact that my homely phraseology will not bear the inspection of the hypercritical, but as I write for the masses, I shall be well compensated if I can please them. The time has past to compile a complete historical biography of Fairfield district, as important material has been lost by the death of the old settlers and no record kept of important facts. The reader will pardon the meagre account given of some men and families as my knowledge of them being limited personally and historically. Where I have given full biographies my correspondents furnished the material or I knew them personally, or received my information from history. As I was born in the extreme western portion of Fairfield and my correspondence limited in the middle and eastern portion of it, the reader will pardon the omission, in this work of any mention being made of persons fully entitled to a record in history. The author will take pleasure in yet giving them a place in an appendix to the little work. But for urgent solicitations from friends I should not have undertaken this book at my advanced stage of life, and hope the readers of it will pardon any errors or omissions. The friends to the work have been very kind in furnishing material for it. I will here state that during my illness I was greatly indebted to a young friend, a descendant of two prominent families spoken of

in this work, for the interest manifested in copying my reminiscences, and letters from correspondents, relative to my book. "When I remember all

the friends, so linked together, I've seen around me fall Like leaves in wintry weather: I feel like one, Who treads alone Some banquet hall deserted, Whose lights are fled, Whose garlands dead, And all but me departed!"

I shall begin by giving a few extracts from Simms' Geography of South Carolina.

"Fairfield was first settled by emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina. It derived its name most probably from the grateful appearance which it made in the eyes of wanderers, weary with long looking for a resting place. It is bounded on the north by Chester district, on the south by Richland, on the west and southwest by Broad River, which divides it from Union, Newberry and Lexington, southwest by Lexington and on the northeast by the Wateree and Catawba Rivers, which separate it from a part of Lancaster and Kershaw. Fairfield is on an average 32 miles in length and 23 in width.

The soil is very various, combining the best and the worst of the up country. The lands on the water courses are rich and inexhaustible, cotton of the short staple variety, is much cultivated, the small grains grow well in Fairfield, wheat and oats in particular. The main rivers are the Broad and the Wateree, both of them contain fertile islands, some of them in cultivation."

Fairfield has an inexhaustible supply of the finest granite for building; several quarries are now in successful operation. A branch railroad has been built from Rockton, a station three and a half miles below Winnsboro on the C. C. & A. Railroad, running out about five miles in a westerly direction, to the quarries owned by Maj. T. W. Woodward, Col. James Rion and Col. A. C. Haskell.

There is a remarkable rock not far from the railroad to Columbia, four miles below Winnsboro, called from its appearance, "Anvil Rock."

The population of Fairfield County in 1880 was 27,765, the number of acres is 454,757.

Winnsboro is the seat of justice and the town of most importance in the county. It is a healthy and pleasant spot, thirty miles from Columbia and one hundred and fifty from Charleston. It is

on the dividing ridge between the Broad and Wateree Rivers. The town stands on an elevation of more than five hundred feet above the ocean. The lands around are fertile, undulating and greatly improved.

By an act of the General Assembly, 8th of March, 1784, John Winn, Richard Winn and John Vanderhorst were authorized to have it laid out as a town. It was incorporated December 20th, 1832. Tarleton says that Lord Cornwallis after learning of the defeat of Ferguson at Kings Mountain, selected Winnsboro as a place of encampment in October 1780, it presenting good advantages for supplies from the surrounding country. He remained there until January 1781. His marquee was near the oak in front of Mt. Zion College. After inquiry, Gen. Sherman in February 1865, placed his marquee on the same spot. During the revolutionary war a large military hospital was located on the premises now occupied by George H. McMaster and was used by both armies in turn. The British dead were buried in what is now the front yard and the Americans in the rear. Mt. Zion College had its origin before the revolutionary war, the charter was granted on the 13th of February, 1777, by the General Assembly then in session in Charleston to John Wynne, Robert Ellison, Wm. Strother and others. The school was discontinued when Cornwallis occupied the town in 1780-81. In 1784, Rev. T. H. McCaul, of Salisbury, N. C., took charge of the school and a new charter was obtained in 1785. In 1787 the foundation was laid for a large brick building, 44x54 ft. and two stories high, and cabins were built for the accommodation of boarders. "Afterwards, during the administration of J. W. Hudson under whom

from 1808 the institution acquired a reputation so extensive with the limits of the Southern States, the building was greatly enlarged. First a three story brick building was added to the rear and then similar additions were made to the north and south side of the main building. This splendid structure was destroyed in May, 1867, by an accidental fire, greatly to the grief of the community.

A one story brick building was soon after erected on the original foundation, at a cost of about 3,500 dollars. In 1878 a public graded school was established by the consent of the Mt. Zion Society, under the able management of R. Means Davis. This has been continued under his successors to the present time. In 1885, just one hundred years from the granting of the original charter, it was determined, if possible, to revive the collegiate feature of the institute and in connection with the graded school to furnish to the youth of our county the opportunity of obtaining a complete, practical education at home at a minimum cost. After various plans had been discussed and abandoned a joint meeting of the Mt. Zion Society and the citizens of the town was held, at which it was determined to issue bonds of the town to the amount of \$75,000, for the purpose of erecting such additional buildings as were needed. Accordingly on the 25th of May, 1886, ground was broken for the foundation of a large and well arranged brick building. This is just completed August 1886, and contains eight large well lighted and well ventilated school rooms furnished throughout with improved seats, desks and all necessary apparatus." The board of trustees have recently elected Professor W. H. Witherow of Chester principal of the school. He was still principal in 1898.

As the Ordinance of Nullification, passed by a convention in Columbia, S. C., in November 1832, is a matter of history I speak of it. It is said that there never was such an array of talent in our State before as was assembled in that body. Jas. Hamilton, Jr., was then governor of our State. Some of the members to the convention were Robt. V. Hayne, Chancellor Harper, Job Johnston, George McDuffie, Robt. J. Turnbull, F. H. Wardlaw, Armistead Burt, Stephen D. Mil-

ler, John L. Wilson, Danl. E. Huger, John B. O'Neal, C. J. Colcock, John S. Richardson, R. W. Barnwell, R. B. Rhett, B. F. Perry, R. J. Manning and F. H. Elmore. The ordinance was to go into effect March 1st, 1833.

There was wild excitement all over the State. The Buckhead troop of cavalry, of which I was a member, commanded by Capt. Thos. Lyles who was afterwards promoted to the rank of Major, was ordered to be in readiness at moments warning to aid in carrying out the provisions of that ordinance. President Jackson issued what was called his "Bloody Proclamation," for the purpose of forcing our State to submission. Gov. Hayne issued one in defiance, declaring the State a sovereignty and calling on all good patriots to sustain him. It was fortunate for us that Henry Clay offered in congress a compromise of the tariff act, which was accepted, reducing gradually for 10 years the duties on all imports to 20 per cent, ad valorem. It was violated, and remained so ever since. The delegates to the Nullification Convention elected from Fairfield, S. C., November 1832, were Wm. Harper, J. B. McCall, E. G. Palmer, D. H. Means and William Smith.

The reader will naturally feel a deep interest in all that pertains to the late great Civil War. I will give a brief account of the Secession Convention and record the names of the members from Fairfield County who signed the ordinance. The Secession Convention met in Columbia early in December, 1860, but small progress in that city it adjourned to Charleston. The Convention passed the Ordinance of Secession on 20th, 1860. The delegates from Fairfield were S. Lyles, John Buchanan,

and J. Davis, men of firmness, sound sense and tried fidelity to the interests of their State. The first mentioned died in April, 1862, the second, the same year. Col. John H. Means was killed at the second battle of Manassas, and Col. Henry C. Davis died of heart disease, Aug. 27th, 1886, near Ridgeway.

There was a meeting in Columbia of the Secession Convention in Sept., 1862, and in the election held to fill the vacancies occasioned by the deaths of Wm. S. Lyles and John Buchanan, Wm. J. Alston and Wm. R. Robertson were elected. The latter introduced in that body resolutions of regret, saying: "Since you all met together, Gen. John Buchanan, Maj. Wm. S. Lyles and Col. John H. Means have paid the last debt of nature and passed to the Great Beyond. The two former on beds of languishing, the last only a few days since on the plains of Manassas, on the field of battle at the head of his command. All three of the deceased were natives of Fairfield District and gentlemen of marked character. Each of them filled posts of honor and distinction and had contributed to the social, moral and political prestige of Fairfield." Col. Means had been killed so short a time before the meeting of the convention that there was no one sent to fill his place.

The reader will pardon me for saying I was a Nullifier and a Secessionist from principle; I was a strict adherent of the doctrine set forth by Mr. Jefferson in his Kentucky resolutions and an adherent of Madison's and John C. Calhoun's "States-Rights" Doctrines. We fought, but fought in vain, and though our banner may never again be unfurled,

"He that complies against his will, Is of his own opinion still."

Fairfield is now entitled to three representatives in the Legislature and one Senator. This county has furnished the State with one governor, John Hugh Means.

The Congressmen from this county have been Richard Winn, Wm. Woodward, D. R. Evans, J. A. Woodward and W. W. Boyce; they served before the war. In 1884, Gen. John Bratton was elected to fill the unexpired term of John H. Evans of Spartanburg,

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WINNSBORO, S. C.



CAPT. JENNINGS ENDORSES IT.

State Treasurer Approves the Scheme for an Old Soldier's Home.

To the Editor of The State:

Allow me space in your popular and widely circulated paper to give my endorsement, as an old ex-Confederate soldier, to the scheme of establishing a home for the helpless and needy amongst the old veterans, as advocated by correspondence and editorial in The State, and while endorsing the movement myself, it is due to fairness and justice that I should say that this same idea was suggested to me some two or three years ago by Judge O. W. Buchanan, who also suggested that the town council of Winnsboro, Fairfield County, his home town and county, be memorialized to donate its beautiful woodland park, known as Fortune Spring park, for the erection of such a home, and that the legis-

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(Continued on fourth page.)